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Remarks

In a telephone conference between Examiner Haddad and the undersigned on March 22, 2004, Examiner Haddad proposed cancellation of claims 6 and 16 and amendment of claim 1 to recite a cadherin 11 counter receptor that is cadherin 11. Applicants agree with these proposals.

Applicants herewith cancel claims 6 and 16.

Applicants herewith amend claim 1 to recite that the cadherin 11 counter receptor is cadherin 11. Support for this amendment can be found in claim 16 as originally filed.

Applicants wish to point out that the limitation in claim 1 that "the cadherin-11 inhibitory agent is an antibody to cadherin-11 that inhibits binding of cadherin-11 to a cadherin-11 counter-receptor that is cadherin-11" refers to a description of the antibody which is used in the claimed methods. That is, the limitation clearly defines the class of antibodies to be used in the claimed methods. The limitation is not intended to describe the in vivo mechanism by which the therapeutic result ultimately is achieved.

Support for claims 59 and 60 as previously presented and now pending can be found in claim 19 as originally filed.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 50-54, 57, 59 and 60 are currently pending.

No new matter has been added.

Applicants reserve the right the right to pursue the subject matter of the originally filed claims in a continuing application.

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Summary

Applicants believe that each of the pending claims is in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner telephone Applicants' attorney in the event that the claims are not found to be in condition for allowance, prior to issuing a further action.

If the Examiner has any questions and believes that a telephone conference with Applicants' attorney would prove helpful in expediting the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is urged to call the undersigned at (617) 646.8000 (extension 266).

Respectfully submitted,
Brenner et al., Applicant(s)



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